

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (previously presented) A method for transmitting control information between a line-switching and a packet-switching communications network, comprising the steps of:

converting user data signaling messages into signaling packets that are used between the line-switching network containing control information and the packet-switching communications network containing control information;

setting up a signaling connection for transmitting signaling packets, which form connection-independent control information which relates to at least one service feature in the line-switching communications network, in the packet-switching network in order to use the at least one service feature of the line-switching communications network in the packet-switching communications network by means of the control information, independently of the connection.

Claim 2. (original) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of integrating the at least one control information item which relates to a service feature in the line-switching communications network into at least one signaling packet which initiates the setting up of a signaling connection.

Claim 3. (original) The method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising the step of acknowledging the reception of the at least one signaling packet (H.225 SETUP) which initiates the setting up of a signaling connection.

Claim 4. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising terminating a signaling connection after receiving an acknowledgement, after a defined time interval has passed, or after a defined number of signaling packets have been transmitted.

Claim 5. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the use of the at least one service feature in the line-switching communications network relates to the control or request, or activation or deactivation, or status check or notification relating to the status thereof.

Claim 6. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 2, wherein a data block for the at least one control information item which is to be transmitted and is independent of the user connection is provided within the at least one signaling packet.

Claim 7. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 2, further wherein specific parameters for the at least one control information item which is to be transmitted and is independent of the user connection are defined within the at least one signaling packet.

Claim 8. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein IP-based protocols are used for transmitting the signaling packets in the packet-switching communication network.

Claim 9. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a signaling message which is used in the line-switching communications network and contains control information is represented by a DSS1 message.

Claim 10. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a signaling packet which is used in the packet-switching network and contains control information is represented by an H.225 message.

Claim 11. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein a standard DSS1 REGISTER message or a standard DSS1 NOTIFY or DSS1 FACILITY message is integrated with a DUMMY CALL REFERENCE in an H.225 SETUP message.

Claim 12. (previously presented) A control unit for conversion of user data signaling messages used between a line-switching communications network containing control information, to signaling packets used in a packet-switching communications network containing control information, the control unit is arranged at the transmitter or receiver end of a signaling connection which is set up in the packet-switching communications network for transmitting signaling packets, and having a module for integration and extraction of connection-independent control information, which relates to at least one service feature in the line-switching communications network, into and out of the signaling packets to be transmitted.

Claim 13. (previously presented) A communication device arranged in a line-switching communications network, the communication device comprising a module for integration and for extraction of connection-independent control information which relates to at least one service feature in the line-switching communications network into and out of user data signaling packets to be transmitted.

Claim 14. (previously presented) A communications terminal, arranged in a packet-switching communications network, the communications terminal comprising a module for integration and for extraction of connection-independent control information which relates to at least one service feature in the line-switching communications network into and/or out of user data signaling packets to be transmitted.